

V. REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 -14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,652,154) in view of Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,558,045). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa and Yamaguchi as applied to claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 and further in view of Masashi et al. (JP 2000-347073). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Shirakawa or Yamaguchi as applied to claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15-19 and further in view of O'Connor (U.S. Patent No. 4,688,875). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended. The amended claim 1 is supported by Fig. 3A, Fig. 3B, Fig. 6A and Fig. 6B. The amended claim 1 has the characteristic feature: "a locking slotted pin, which is mechanically integral with the socket housing and extends from an outer peripheral surface of the socket housing, locking into the printed board." Since the locking slotted pin is mechanically integral with the socket housing and extends from the outer peripheral surface of the socket housing, this invention requires only one step to engage a "locking slotted pin" with the printed board. In contrast, Yamaguchi requires two steps: The "earthing terminal 22" is inserted into the housing 21 and then into the "slit 71" of the printed circuit board 70.

It is respectfully submitted that none on the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended and discussed above. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features all the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-13 and 15-19 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly-added claim 20 includes features not shown in the applied art. Although not by way of limitation, claim 20 includes a tubular main housing formed with an opposing pair of locking holes extending transversely relative to the longitudinal axis and being in communication with a joint opening part, a slot with the slot extending longitudinally, in communication with the joint opening part and one pair of the locking parts straddling the slot and a socket housing including a pair of side walls with each side wall having a small locking projection attached thereto and projecting transversely and outwardly relative to a longitudinal axis in that the joint opening part of the tubular main body is sized to slidably receive the socket housing such that a slotted locking projection connected to the socket housing is received by the slot and the respective small locking projections are releasably engaged with respective ones of the opposing pair of locking holes to releasably retain the socket housing and the tubular main housing together.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Date: May 22, 2007

By:

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Request for Continued Examination

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